Some of our activities

JFAFL staged a **protest** 1992 at U of T when professor J. Fletcher invited Heritage Front leader Wolfgang Droege and his followers to speak to his class "... to get a first-hand understanding of racism" —J. Fletcher.

On April 19, 1993 and 1994, JFAFL organized events and rallies to mark the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

In September 1994, JFAFL spoke at a **press conference** and demonstration exposing links between CSIS and the Heritage Front

We have made **solidarity speeches** at numerous anti-racist demonstrations organized by Anti-Racist Action and other groups. JFAFL is a member organization of the Toronto Coalition Against Racism (TCAR) and has actively supported the STOP SHOWBOAT coalition and Asian Revisions.

What can you do about antisemitism?

- **Educate yourself** on the history of antisemitism and other forms of racism and fascism
- **Make the links** between antisemitism and other forms of oppression
- **Listen** when Jews speak out about their experiences of Jewish oppression
- **Speak out and challenge antisemitism** and Jewish stereotypes in society at-large as well as in your communities and organizations
- **Include an analysis** of Jewish oppression in discussion groups and workshops
- **Invite members** of JFAFL and other progressive Jewish organizations to participate at forums and demonstrations
- **Include Jews** and Jewish perspectives in your coalition work
- **Come and support** JFAFL and other Jewish groups at demonstrations, commemorations, public forums, rallies and fundraisers

How to reach us

Call **925-9872 ext. 2119**
& leave a message

or write **JFAFL**
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If you are a Jewish woman and are interested in fighting fascism, antisemitism and racism, get in touch! Join JFAFL!

The Jewish Feminist Anti-Fascist League (JFAFL)

who we are

We are a group of Jewish feminists committed to pro-actively fighting all forms of oppression: antisemitism, racism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, imperialism and mysogyny. Our work as activists is focused on resisting fascism, antisemitism and racism, while building coalitions and making links with progressive individuals and organizations. JFAFL opposes the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, together with all instances of imperialism and colonialism. Since its inception, JFAFL has included lesbians, bisexual and heterosexual women, working class and middle class women, psychiatric survivors, immigrant women, disabled women, daughters of Holocaust survivors, and survivors of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. We feel that as Jewish feminist activists our diverse identities and experiences help provide us with an understanding of the structures and operations of oppression.

JFAFL was formed in November 1992

to join the fight against antisemitism and other forms of racism at a time when fascist organizing was escalating in Toronto and internationally. The extreme right has made many gains in recent years; consider the number of recently-established white-supremacist groups and the increase in hate literature & crimes. Symptomatic of the rise of the far-right are the renewed and vicious attacks against immigrants, refugees, First Nations peoples, lesbians & gays, people of colour, Jews, women, disabled people and low-income people.

Fascism is manifested in many ways

Institutions such as the justice system, the police, the media and the education system all promote and uphold systemic oppressions such as racism and antisemitism.

Organized nazi and right-wing groups like the Heritage Front are but one symptom of a growing shift to the right in Canada. The far right has been gaining legitimacy in mainstream politics, with the electoral success of the Reform Party pushing the political agenda further to the right. Social programs are being eroded, and the current economic crisis is being used to attack poor and low-income people—rather than acknowledging the global economy and NAFTA as the root causes of the recession.

Repressive immigration laws are severely restricting the rights of immigrants and refugees, who are being stereotyped as "criminals" and "welfare cheats" and blamed for Canada's social problems. This form of scapegoating is reminiscent of early attacks on the Jewish community in Nazi Germany.

These are but a few examples of fascistic measures as JFAFL sees them operating in society at-large. Fascism underlies all systemic attempts to subject communities and individuals to oppression and marginalization.

Antisemitism is central to fascist ideology. Jews continue to be among the primary targets of hate crimes and neo-nazi activities, Holocaust revisionism and conspiracy theories. There has been a rise in hate-crimes against Jews, as witnessed by the desecration of Jewish cemeteries and the painting of swastikas on synagogues and Jewish community centres. Racist professors continue to teach theories of so-called "racial inferiority" of Jews and people of colour, while also denying the Holocaust.

some examples of

Antisemitism & Jewish oppression:

- **the perpetuation of stereotypes** of Jews as being wealthy, cheap, capitalist, well-connected, powerful & "in control." *Few Jews are in fact rich business people. Some Jews do hold institutional power; however, the primary power-holders in our society are White, Christian, heterosexual, able-bodied men.*

- **the belief** that Jews are loud, pushy and take up too much space; and that our only concern is antisemitism and not other forms of oppression. *This is no more true for Jews that it is for members of any oppressed community.*

- **the denial of the Holocaust**. *There is no denying that Jews were the main target of nazi extermination policies. Millions of Jews and many others were systematically murdered by the Nazis.*

- **the distortion of histories** which portray Jews as oppressors. *While some Jews are participants in oppressive power structures, this is also true of people from all communities. Jews are involved in all progressive struggles, and have been particularly active in the labour/trade union movement and civil-rights movements.*

- **the belief** that all Jews are—and should be—held responsible for the actions of the Israeli state.

- **the belief** that the words "Jew" and "zionist" are interchangeable; the belief that all forms of zionism are racist.

- **the assumption** that all Jews are white-skinned & of European descent. *Jewish cultures are extremely diverse and include Arab, North African, Latin American, South Asian, Black/African and Chinese Jews.*

- **the belief that Jews can "pass"** at our convenience in order to take part in the White power structure. *White-skinned Jews benefit from white-skin privilege; however, this does not negate the fact that Jews experience other forms of oppression as Jews. Many Jews have been forced or have chosen to assimilate in order to avoid suffering antisemitism.*

- **when Jews** are included in anti-racist movements only as long as we do not speak out about our own experiences of Jewish oppression. Antisemitism is present when it is assumed that Jews do not suffer oppression *as Jews*, and when anti-semitism is omitted from an analysis of systemic oppressions in society.

Anti-semitism is racism

Antisemitism has its roots in early Christian depictions of Jews as "Christ-killers," "child murderers" & "demons." These hateful images and stereotypes continue to be used against us today.

The term "anti-semitism" was in fact coined in Europe by Jew-haters who used it as a positive description of their politics. Semites include many peoples such as Arabs and Berbers; however the use of the word antisemitism refers specifically to Jewish oppression and hatred.

Regardless of what it is called, Jewish oppression is real.

Jewish oppression is not a thing of the past, as some may say.

We all need to expand our understanding of oppression. Attacks on Native people, people of colour, immigrants, refugees, lesbians and gays, disabled people, low-income people and Jews are affronts to us all & must be resisted.